

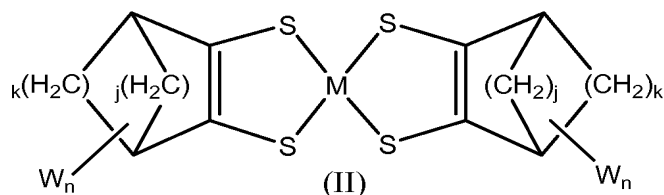
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method of minimizing absorption of visible light in an ink composition comprising an IR-absorbing metal-dithiolene dye, wherein the dye is preselected from a metal-dithiolene of formula (II):



wherein:

M is selected from Ni, Pd or Pt (preferably Ni);

j is selected from 1, 2, 3 or 4;

k is selected from 1, 2, 3 or 4;

n is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

~~W is W is selected from: a substituent comprising an ammonium group; a substituent comprising an acid group, including salts thereof, or a substituent comprising a sulfonamide group; a hydrophilic group;~~

up to three $-(CH_2)-$ groups in the carbocycle are optionally replaced by a group

independently selected from $-C(O)-$, $-NH-$, $-S-$, $-O-$;

up to three $-CH-$ groups in the carbocycle may be optionally replaced by $-N-$; and

up to four H atoms in the carbocycle may be optionally replaced a group independently selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{5-12} aryl, C_{5-12} arylalkyl, halogen, hydroxyl or amino.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein M is Ni.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein j is 1 and k is 2.

23. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein said dye comprises a $-\text{C}(\text{C}_{1-4} \text{ alkyl})_2-$ bridging group.
24. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein n is 1.
25. (Cancelled)
26. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein W is a substituent comprising a group of formula $-\text{CO}_2\text{Z}$, $-\text{SO}_3\text{Z}$, $-\text{OSO}_3\text{Z}$, $-\text{PO}_3\text{Z}$ or $-\text{OPO}_3\text{Z}$, wherein Z is H or a water-soluble cation.
27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein W is of formula $-(\text{CH}_2)_t-\text{SO}_3\text{Z}$, wherein t is 0 or an integer from 1 to 6, and Z is H or a water-soluble cation.
28. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein W is of formula $-\text{CH}_2\text{SO}_3\text{H}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{SO}_3\text{Na}$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{SO}_3\text{K}$.
- 29-56. (Cancelled)